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AMERICAN FALL RTW: THE EXTREME VS. THE SALABLE

More than ever, "selective buying" will hold the key to a successful season. Designers also bank on customers wanting both a new dress AND a new pantsuit, in addition to intentionally non-matching sportswear components.

HEMLINES -- a few young collections still show the knees, many unrealistic ones drop to maxi, but the MAJORITY range from below-knee to calf; and women will surely have several lengths in their closets. Since everything is soft, loose, rippled and layered, only a cape, loose coat or topper can encircle it.

CAPES: THE BIG WRAPUPS ...
... at their worst, as enveloping as a magician's, at their best, buttoned down (Richard Barr, a new resource; Ilie Wacs). Most are unlined, and either scarf-tied or held with one oversize button. HOODED -- (Calvin Klein, Leo Narducci for Ambiance, Scott Barrie, The Clarendon Collection) ... REVERSIBLE -- (Wacs Works, J. L. Sport, Jim Baldwin, Trigere). SILVER FOX -- collared (John Anthony, George Halley) -- bordered (Oscar de la Renta) ... REVERSIBLE TO FUR -- (Trigere) ... MEDIEVAL -- (Giorgio di Sant'Angelo, Helga Howie of California) ... MONK'S CAPE -- peignoir-belted (Richard Barr) ... PONCHOS ride on the cape's tail for rain or shine.

THE NEWSY COATS ...
... some voluminous and whirly, a few slim. SWINGY STEAMERS -- (Bill Blass, Donna Karan for Anne Klein & Co.), reversible (Calvin Klein). DOLMANS, some fur cuffed (Blass, Trigere). MODIFIED SMOCKS, easy hanging via judicious gathers from back seam of padded roll necks or conventional collars (Geoffrey Beene). Many side-closures ... clutches ... wrap-ties. SLIMS: reefers, Chesterfields, balmacaans, officers' coats -- many loose back yokes even on non-trenches. REVERSIBLES, either double-faced or reversing to a contrasting fabric.

TOPPERS, SHORTIES -- an easy way to solve the problem of what to wear with all those varied skirt lengths, as well as pants ... hooded, reversible, pea jackets, swing-backs, wrap-ties.

REAL SUITS edge back into fashion, are man-tailored, Basque, bolero, or waist-cropped -- matching or 2-tone. Worn with tuck-in blouses again, but not the uptight kind: these have eith whooshy bownecks, or ascot ties. AND ...

DASHING VESTS, integral to the layered look, adding a pert new image: on pantsuits (Calvin Klein) in suede (Anne Klein), to match coats (J. L. Sport) ... they have shawl collars (Ralph Lauren) ... even suit jackets are vest-shaped (Beene, Trigere).

THE DRESS IS BACK ...soft, supple, motionful, often reflecting the influence of Jean Muir and Kenzo, loose enough to accommodate a turtleneck sweater underneath: its great new distinctions are handsome top yokes (see FALL SIGNATURES, pg. 2). THE SHIRTDRESS continues, front buttoned or not: with tucks and contrast topstitching (Albert Nipon), French Workman's Shirt (John Kloss). 2-PIECE DRESSES with tunic overblouse ... surplice wrapovers, A-lines, blousons, long torsos and tents, belted or not.

SKIRTS ARE NOW IN THE MAJORITY ... and any skirt with more than 2 gathers on top now qualifies as a DIRNDL. Others are yoked, gored, bias flared, cluster-pleated. Straight skirts have vanished.

PANTS (now a way of life) AND THEIR OFF-SHOOTS: Most pants are straight leg and

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uncuffed, a few are full but never floppy. MANY PANTSUITS CONTRAST in color or fabric. JUMPSUITS are on the rise (Trigere, Ralph Lauren, Wacs Works, Gene Berk for Paganne). CULOTTES get the nod (Halston, Genre, Friedricks Sport), and KNICKERS are shown by several houses.

SWEATERS are crocheted, ruffled, hooded, collared with fur or cowled -- big and bulky -- or smooth to go over and under, in a system of unlined layered dressing, on which Bonnie Cashin should have taken out a patent long ago. Newest are also simplest: U-neck pullovers which show off a bit of the shirt and four-in-hand patterned tie under soft suits (Beene).

ELEGANT CROCHETS: hand-crocheted -- 3-tone suit, mohair cardigan (Mady Gerrard) -- multicolor and monotone squares, also 2-tone open stitch, special order colors, in dresses and skirts (Maskit Designs) ... lacy (Helga Howie, Gloria Sachs).

LOOK FOR THESE BIG FALL SIGNATURES: SUPERB TOP YOKES, sure sales clinchers, are an artistic evolution of the Russian Cossack tunic minus all that yardage. THREE BASIC SHAPES, all with light gathers spilling from them fore and aft: U-SHAPED, often with the sleeve top also lightly gathered ... SQUARE SHAPED with gently rounded corners, at times welt-seamed or flanged. Many extend to drop-shoulder sleeves. The third is literally a SHOULDER YOKE, a narrow oblong on the very top of the shoulder, no wider than epaulettes, but starting at the neck.

LENGTHY MUFFLER-SCARVES, usually fringed, most worn looped low in front or back -- but trailing ends of extreme versions could be lethal in car and elevator doors -- some wide enough to wrap about the figure, a la Dorothee Bis.

THE SIGNATURE NECKLINES: HIGH, HIGHER, HIGHEST

HOODS top sweaters, overblouses. COWLS on pullover sweaters (Calvin Klein, Anne Klein); bias set-on (Eleanor Brenner). Crushed FUNNEL NECKS -- (Adri, Scott Barrie, Dividends). TURTLENECKS are now unbulky (Baldwin, Blassport, Halley, Vera Maxwell, Anne Klein). Other high necklines: standup Cossack collars, shallow SQUARES, and narrow bias bateaux that cling to the base of the neck.

SLEEVES FOLLOW ECCLESIASTIC INFLUENCE, TOO

The monk's capes and coats are cousined by the prevalence of Anglican-clergy BISHOP SLEEVES which hang loose and open or are gathered into cuffs. RAGLANS -- top-stitched or plain ... DROP-SHOULDERS ... UNMOUNTED SLEEVES ... DOLMANS.

MOST FABRICS AREN'T IN HER CLOSET NOW

PURE LUXURY ... from A (ALPACA at Wacs, and brushed at Trigere) to Z (ZIBELENE revived by Cashin). CASHMERE, especially in ivory, even reversing to poplin -- brushed monk's coat (Friedricks Sport) ... knit. BRUSHED MOHAIR -- plain or plaid -- printed (Ronald Amey) -- UNbrushed (Wacs).

STURDY: CORDUROY -- wide-wale (Bill Kaiserman/Rafael, Bagatelle) -- velvety pinwale (Count Romi) -- natural wale (Wacs Works) -- ribless, printed (Ginalla/ Ginessa, Friedricks Sport). DOUBLEKNITS -- (Halley, Estevez). DONEGAL in many colors ... HARRIS TWEED ... Glen Plaids, small district and gun club checks ... Herringbone SHETLAND (Trigere) ... CHEVIOT (Vera Maxwell) ... MELTON ... FLANNEL ... and watch BLACK DENIM (Baldwin, Blassport).

SOFT: SINGLE JERSEY, from wool to matte, plain or printed, is Fall's great basic, but there are interesting new non-basic constructions, too: wool, downy, extra sheer (Casi) -- wool/cotton, cashmere-soft (Amey) -- rabbit-hair (Kloss) -- printed cotton (Paganne, Amey) ... CHALLIS.

THE GREAT PRETENDERS: new fake leathers -- lush, glossy white "Glove Skin" (Beene Bag, Ginala/ Ginessa, Nipon) -- palomino "Chiffon Leather" that breathes, washes, has real leather markings (Casi) ... ULTRASUEDE now in dresses, suits, coats, pantsuits and fur trimmed costumes (Halston, Maxwell, Parnis, Blassport)... NOMELLE, Du Pont's cashmere-like knit (Friedricks Sport).

TRIMS: THIN QUILTING on knits -- on flannel (Gavi) -- on printed thin cotton (Design Thai) -- on satin (de la Renta) ... Trapunto and TOPSTITCHING ... EMBROIDERY.

PRINTS: some PAISLEY--
FIGURATIVES: PEOPLE -- Buddhist (Amey) --

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LONDON PLAYS IT SAFE AND SOUND FOR FALL

More than 300 British RTW firms, including all the well-knowns, plus manufacturers from 11 other countries, made this April's London Fashion Fair the biggest on record.

Fashion here has finally come of age ... the trends seen in Paris have been rescued from the tackiness of the under-25 street people, and replaced by the more commercial appeal of properly made, well-coordinated clothes for sophisticated, elegant women.

LENGTHS are commercial: over-the knee for day, around the ankle for evening -- and, depending on the individual garment or designer, anywhere in between.

THE LOOKS: soft, layered separates with mix and match fabrics and textures, knits often combined with wovens ... skirts, especially bias-swing, take preference over trousers ... soft blouses replace classic shirts ... knits abound, many nubbly tweeds, boucles, cabled or marled, in pullovers, cardigans, big bulky hooded sweater jacks and coats, dressy evening sweaters.

COATS: swingy, with full gathers springing from a yoke, or fit-and-flared ... soft blousons ... slim and tubular ... trench-coats. Details: broader shoulders, raised shoulders, raglans, capelets, hoods ... fly fronts, tie waists, wide turn-back cuffs, fur trims.

SUITS: classic, sophisticated ... 30's slim with longer jacket, straight skirt ... fitted jacket and bias skirt circa Dior '47.

DRESSES: softer, often in jersey ... shirt-dress with short, wide sleeves, inset belt, swing skirt ... kimono sleeved blouson ... 2-piece with tie neck, belted short sleeve top and flared skirt. Evening: lingerie look ... slinky 30's Hollywood vamps in jerseys, laces ... billowing Romantics with small, neat bodices.

FABRICS: TWEEDS -- Harris, Donegal, herring-bone and Prince of Wales ... corduroy printed and plain ... Loden cloth ... flannel ... gabardine ... mohair, alpaca ... raschel, single and double knits. Evening: velvet, printed, panne ... crepe de chine, figured satin-back crepe ... silk jersey, rayon georgette ... viscose chiffon, matte jersey. COLORS: comparable to American Fall RTW.

ROME TREND-SETTING BOUTIQUES

Boutique 77, Piazza di Spagna 77 ... women's sportswear, mainly a showcase for Sonia Rykiel; also Cacharel

Boutique 78, next door ... men's boutique

Camomilla, Piazza di Spagna 84-85 ... nostalgia, far out T-shirts (leopard prints in odd colorings), sportswear, dresses, unusual accessories

Alexander, Corner Via Frattina ... Emmanuelle Khanh, John Ashpool, St. Clair -- their own labels; Ferrier Santis T-shirts; one of best boutiques in Rome

V.O.G., Via Della Vita 23-24-30 ... sweaters, separates, dresses, coats, suits

Pull Stop, Via del Tritone 95-96 ... lots of French imports, especially Hechter and Cacharel

Bus Stop, Via Sistina ... sportswear and separates; inconsistent

Diana Bis, Via Frattina 141 ... sportswear, separates, dresses, accessories

Anticoli, Via del Tritone 133 ... good shirts, T-shirts, sweaters; inexpensive

La Rinacente, Via del Corso 186 ... branch of the Milan Big Dept. Store

Filippo, Via Borgognona 7 bis ... shirts, sweaters, trousers, jackets for men and women; good; expensive

La Boheme, Via Borgognona ... sportswear, trousers, sweaters, shirts; expensive

Gucci Boutique, Via Borgognona ... cousin of the famed one on Via Condotti; better selection of bags and belts; less expensive

Malia, Via Della Croce 9 ... sportswear, dresses, sweaters, accessories; good denim, with faggoting and cluny lace inserts. Carries Timwear

Sarastore, Via Della Croce 52 ... separates and shirts; the big printed fabric bag on wooden ring

Pub, Via Della Croce 53 ... sportswear

Nada, Via Della Croce 57 ... shoes and bags

Cile, Via Della Croce 58 ... handbags

Macalle, Via Della Croce 60 ... sportswear

Silian's Club, Via Della Croce 61 ... good French imports; also local merchandise

Liola, Via Della Croce 65 ... nostalgia, old jeans, denim with a flair

Banko, Via Della Croce 66 ... Classic but good selection of sweaters, blouses, skirts, trousers

Sorellemacalle, Via Della Croce 68-69 ... Very elegant and expensive sportswear, separates, dresses

Il Cancelletto, Via Della Carozze 87 ... dresses for juniors, silk blouses, prints ... nostalgia

AMERICAN FALL RTW (continued from page 2)

Japanese (Hanae Mori) -- carabinieri (Adele Simpson) -- colorful people on black ground (Narducci) ... ANIMAL KINGDOM -- hunt scenes; buffalos, camels, leopards or yacks (Diane von Furstenberg) ... CONVERSATIONALS, SCENICS: Japanese graphics (Mori) -- tiny red Volkswagens on patchwork (Brenner) ... peacock feathers ... neat geometrics ... florals.

THE COLOR PARADE is led by PALEST BEIGES ... GRAYS -- oxford, banker's ... GREENS, dark: hunter, bottle, some Loden ... THE RED SPECTRUM, from bois de rose to rose, cinnamon, azalea, terra cotta, pimiento, RUST, ruby, wine and maroon ... aubergine ... BLACK (J. Anthony, Baldwin, Victor Joris).

FROM HEAD: cloches ... berets ... turned up brims ... turbans ... and WRAPPED HEADS, tight as a bandage ... TO FOOT: all high-heeled ... T-STRAPS and slingbacks ... BOOTS of crushed black or brown kid, just high enough to meet the over-long capes and coats, or to have pants tucked into them ... the leg in natural color or delicately hued ... textures become important again.
(NOTE: EVENING WEAR IN NEXT ISSUE)

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JUST OPENED IN PARIS:
GIANT MULTI-PURPOSE COMPLEX

PALAIS DES CONGRES, on Place de la Porte Maillot, is a huge, high-rise complex that combines the modern trend to enclosed multiple shopping areas and proper utilization of space into easy, vertical accessibility. Containing 18 boutiques, a toy store, florist, cinema, hairdressing salon, a hotel, bank, conference hall, as well as temporary and permanent exhibit space - it is also the main terminal for Air France, with buses to Orly, Le Bourget and Charles de Gaulle airports.

COMING UP IN FI
... Fall Rainwear and Evening Collections
... Fall and Winter Fur Fashions
... Report on Interstoff

PARIS TREND-SETTING BOUTIQUES

Galeries Cambon, 4 rue Cambon ... showcase for all the Racine jersies
Jap, 28 Passage Choiseul ... Kenzo Takada designs; special items are made up just for this store.
L's Development, 44 Galerie Vivienne ... Men's and women's fashions by Jean-Yves Legarve and Juan Stoppani.
Mahaveda, 21 rue Pierre Lescot ... East Indian crafts, jewelry and apparel
Les Halles Capone, 12 rue de Turbigo ... Newly opened boutique, featuring Francois Girbaud's collection and items.
La Gaminerie, 131 Boulevard Saint Germain ... Fashions by Cacharel and Hechter
Diamantissimo, 28 rue du Four ... Modern jewelry and creations by Jean Dinh Van.
Andrea Pfister, 56 rue du Four ... Elegant shoes and leathers (their newest boutique is in Zurich -- Kuttelgasse, 8)
M. G. Store, 58 rue Bonaparte ... Martine Granval's exclusive designs; lots of knits
Fabrice, 26 and 54 rue Bonaparte ... trend setting jewelry; expensive
Clubissimo, 7 rue Francois Ponsard ... organized by two former "Elle" editors... "join" the club for $6.00, and then buy exclusive designs. Prices reasonable, quarterly catalogue available
Bijoux Box, 61 rue de Passy ... trendy earrings, necklaces, bracelets. Second store in Galerie du Lido, 78 Champs Elysees
Bagheera, 62 rue de Rennes ... designs by Georges Rech, Aujard, Real,V de V, Missoni
Daniel Ho, 54 rue de Rennes ... Young merchandise, including exclusive designs; good shoes
Gang, 40 rue du Dragon ... New ... melange of items, from shawls to antique silks
Mohanjeet, 21 rue Saint Sulplice; also 12 rue Jacob ... Indian fabrics, dresses, quilted bedspreads, rugs
Candide, 4 rue de Miromesnil ... expensive, beautiful lingerie
Pulcinella, 10 rue Vignon ... antique and modern jewelry; objets d'art
Gaston Jaunet, 24 rue Francois Ier ... blazers, pantsuits, skirts; accessories

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